(DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES) (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) to (f) Foreign tours are undertaken by the executives of the Public Enterprises, whenever necessary, as part of their day to day business and commercial activity. Some of the enterprises have their offices and project abroad. All these necessitiate travel to foreign countries by the executives of Public Enterprises. The foreign visits undertaken by them, therefore, relate to their day to day administration. Considering that such visits are in the nature of operational requirements, the Government has delegated powers to sanction foreign tours of all executives below the Board level to the Chief Executives of Public Enterprises and the approval of the Government is not required in such cases. There are over 2.5 lakh executives in Public Enterprises. There is no centralised monitoring system prevalent to collect such information from Public Enterprises nor are the Public Enterprises required to furnish these details to the Government.

Recession in Automobile Industry

1544. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the automobile industry including manufacturers of accessories and components have been reeling under recession;

(b) whether it is also a fact that car sales have declined to the extent that there is no longer any waiting list or lead time required for delivery;

(c) if so, the reasons for such a recession in the automobile industry particularly car industry;

(d) whether the reduction in central excise and customs duty would improve the sales and put the automobile industry on the right track; and

(e) if so, the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) In the year 1991-92, there has been a general fall in the production and sales of automotive vehicles. Consequential effect on components industry would also be there.

(b) and (c) Decline in the sale of Passenger car was also evident during this period and this could be attributed to a decline in demand resulting from high credit costs, increase in prices and lower rate of depreciation allowed.

(d) and (e) The reduction in Central Excise and Customs duties announced recently by the Government is aimed at improving sales of vehicles. Impact of these measures can be known only after some time.

Sick Units referred to BIFR

1545. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINITER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed to consider withdrawing of some of the cases of sick units referred to the BIFR provided the Trade Unions come out with "acceptable viable solutions" for their modernisation and revamping;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether any Trade Union has so far come out with such an acceptable viable solution in regard to any sick unit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, making refe-